

WANDERERS HIT ALL FOUR IN SECOND HALF

IT TOOK Wycombe Wanderers' well-oiled footballing machine just 50 minutes to rid itself of the cobwebs caused by three weeks of idleness at Woking on Tuesday night. After an uncertain goalless first half, the Blues hammered home four goals in an exhilarating performance, which brought them three more points in their bid to retain their Rothmans Isthmian League Division One championship.

It was a remarkable display by the Wanderers considering this was their first competitive game of any sort since Saturday January 11, when they overcame Oxford City 1-0 in the league. Perhaps the rest did them good.

People in some quarters felt that Wanderers would suffer a let down following their two epic matches with Middlesbrough. It

By MICHAEL KNOX Woking 0, Wycombe Wanderers 4

may be that this enforced break has given the players time to come down to earth.

Many people seeing the scoreline will think that Woking, who are languishing near the bottom of the table, offered very little resistance. This was far from the case, especially during the first half, when they caused Blues' defence some awkward problems.

In Tony Roberts and Nigel Kean, they possessed two forwards, capable of taking on full-backs and beating them. But unfortunately, they lacked punch in the penalty area. Ken Oram and Trevor Waughman were never given an inch by the now reputable defensive pairing of Alan Phillips and Keith Mead.

At half time, it seemed that one goal either way would decide the destiny of the points,

and from the moment Dave Alexander put them ahead in the 51st minute, his first goal for the club, Wycombe turned the solid Woking defence — only 28 goals conceded in 24 games before this one — inside out.

Alexander only got the chance to play, because of the unavailability of Mick Hollifield, and used the opportunity to show what a useful 'reserve' Wycombe have acquired.

A small man, he is a non-stop runner and showed particular flair in his passing — he did not always attempt the easy ball. Alexander is not the strongest of tacklers, but sticks to his man in defensive situations.

Every member of the Wycombe side produced a noteworthy performance, but perhaps the best display of all came from Terry Reardon in

mid-field. Whether up with the attack or back in defence he scarcely put a foot wrong and his hard but fair tackling prevented several awkward attacks from bearing fruit.

Woking, who were without the injured John Grondona, started briskly and were obviously trying that little bit harder against opponents, who were making national headlines less than a month ago.

Wycombe appeared to be moving in third gear during the early stages and they almost paid for this in the ninth minute. Home full-back Dennis Cheeseman, pushing up with the attack, lobbed the ball into the goalmouth. John Maskell, under pressure from Oram, could only palm it against the bar, before it was eventually cleared.

There was little further excitement in the first half, except for a flurry of Wycombe corners in the 10 minutes before the break — obviously a sign of greater things to come.

Howard Kennedy fired the first volley of the second half assault with one of his 30 yard 'specials' which went just wide of a post, but it was Alexander, who opened the scoring in the 51st minute.

Kennedy's cross from the right was glanced straight into Alexander's path by a header from Graham Cooper. The diminutive mid-field player looked up, and calmly placed the ball wide of Dave Collyer from the edge of the penalty area.

Wycombe's small band of supporters had scarcely stopped cheering Alexander, when Steve Perrin added number two in the 53rd minute. Gary Hand, who had another splendid game, crossed from the left and found Perrin unmarked five yards out from goal. The big striker does not miss those type of chances and he headed into the roof of the net.

The visitors were now well in charge and only a desperate goalline clearance by Mickey Bell prevented Phillips heading home number three from Wycombe's umpteenth corner.

Perrin also failed to score, when put clear by Alexander, with whom he contrived a brilliant 1-2. Ignoring 'Kelly's

shuffle', Steve decided to blast the ball home past the final line of defence. Unfortunately he shot straight at the fast-approaching Collyer.

But Wycombe did not have to wait long to make sure of their £40 bonus. In the 72nd minute, Kennedy's corner was headed goalwards by Phillips. Searle put Collyer under pressure and the ball found its way into the net via the head of the unfortunate John Cassidy.

Two minutes later Perrin added his second goal following fine work by Tony Horseman. 'Bodger' finding himself surrounded by defenders, threaded the ball out to Perrin, who finished off the move with a firmly struck shot.

So for the second time in the night Wanderers had scored two goals within a two minute spell. The Woking players became understandably disheartened but this was no excuse for a series of clumsy tackles by Cheeseman, who was lucky not to be booked by referee Mr. Drewe.

WOKING: D. Collyer; D. Cheeseman, M. Bell, G. Cooper, M. Whittford, A. Roberts, J. Cassidy, A. Lewer (sub: D. Forbes 81 mins), K. Oram, T. Waughman, N. Kean.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, G. Hand, K. Mead, A. Phillips, T. Reardon, S. Perrin, H. Kennedy, K. Searle, D. Alexander, A. Horseman Sub: D. Bullock (not used).

Half-time: 0-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe: Alexander (51 mins), Perrin (53, 74), J. Cassidy o.g. (72 mins).

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	22	19	1	2	48	13	58
D'Wich	27	17	3	7	48	24	54
Wycombe	23	14	6	3	41	22	48
Ilford	24	14	4	6	58	32	48
Dag'ham	20	14	3	3	49	22	48
L'head	21	13	4	4	47	22	43
Sutton	26	13	2	11	48	37	41
Tooting	23	12	4	7	31	29	40
King'tn	27	12	1	14	33	42	37
Wal'stow	26	9	6	11	38	36	33
Barking	27	9	6	12	46	49	33
Slough	24	9	5	10	38	33	32
S'ford	21	10	2	9	30	29	32
Hendon	25	9	5	11	34	42	32
Clapton	26	9	2	15	35	53	25
Oxford	25	8	4	13	32	38	24
L'stone	24	7	5	12	25	34	23
Hayes	26	6	7	13	34	46	23
Woking	25	6	6	13	29	38	22
Hitchin	19	7	2	10	29	38	21
Walton	26	4	3	18	23	70	1
Bromley	25	4	1	20	16	57	1